

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GOG SPOKESMAN DISCLAIMS RUMORS ABOUT HEIGHTENED
CRISIS IN GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: GOG SPOKESMAN LAMBRIAS STATED JANUARY 23
THAT RUMORS ABOUT DANGEROUS DETERIORATION IN GREEK-TURKISH
RELATIONS AND GOG'S ALLEGED ADOPTION OF EMRGENCY MEASURES
WERE UNFOUNDED. OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS (CU/NF)
DURING YESTERDAY'S SESSION OF PARLIAMENT APPRAISED GREEK/TURKISH
RELATIONS AS REACHING CRITICAL POINT BUT ANTICIPATED THAT
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE SETTLED THROUGH
DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. IN SEPARATE STATEMENT GOG SPOKESMAN
JANUARY 22 CATEGORICALLY DENIED REPORTS OF GREEK ARMY
TROOP MOVEMENTS AND THT MILITARY ALERT HAD BEEN
ORDERED. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER SECRETARY FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION LAMBRIAS
IN DAILY PRESS BRIEFING TOLD CORRESPONDENTS JANUARY 23
THT REMORS ALLEGING THAT GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING EMERGENCY
MEASURES AND MORE GENERAL REPORTS CONCERNING A
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DANGEROUS DETERIORATION IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS WERE

COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED. LABRIAS CHARACTERIZED SUCH RUMORS AS UNJUSTIFIED AND ADDED THAT THEIR ORIGIN IS SUSPICIOUS. GOG SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT NO EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE NEEDED IN ANY PART OF GREECE.

3. LAMBRIAS ELALBORATED ON BACKGROUND BASIS THAT DUE TO TURKISH PROVOATIVENESS, WHICH MUST BASICALLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS CONFRONTING TURKEY, "THERE IS DETERIORATION TO GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS." CONTINUING ON BACKGROUND, LAMBIAS POINTED OUT THAT "ANKARA MONORITY GOVERNMENT IS FACED WITH IMPASSE AND DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT. FOR THESE REASONS TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO DISTRACT ATTENTION OF TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION BY CHAUVINISTIC SLOGANS." HE ADDED THAT THESE REASONS DO NOT POSE CONCRETE DANGER FOR GREECE AND FACT OF DETERIORATION IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS DOES NOT COMPEL GREECE TO TAKE EMERGENCY MEASURES. LAMBRIAS CONCLUDED BACKGROUND REMARKS WITH OBSERVATION THAT ESCALATION OF TURKISH THREATS WHICH ARE BEING "LAUNCHED IN VIEW OF FEBRUARY 5 ---DATE U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY IS DUE TO BE SUSPENDED-- WILL FINALLY TURN AGAINST TURKEY HERSILF."

4. OPPOSITION LEADER GOERGE MAVROS, CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES, IN LENGTHY STATEMENT ON FLOOR OF PARLIAMENT JANUARY 23 COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS ARE AT CRITICAL STAGE AS RESULT OF CYPRUS CRISIS AND OTHR ISSUES OVER WHICH GREECE AND TURKEY DISAGREE, GREECE SHOULD NOT LOSE ITS SANG-FROID. MAVROS UNDERScoreD THAT SUCH DIFFERENCES COULD BE IRONED OUT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND DISMISSED AS INCONCEIVABLE POSSIBILITY OF ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY BECAUSE OF DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS. MAVROS ADDED THAT SITUATION CALLED FOR FULL VIGILANCE BY GREECE. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ON CUT-OFF OF U.S. AID TO TURKEY, CENTER UNION CHIEF SAID THAT ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE INFORMATION HE DID NOT SEE HOW PRESIDENT FORD COULD SUPPORT REQUEST TO CONTINUE MILITARY AID TO TURKEY SINCE SITUATION IN CYPRUS NOT ONLY INDICATED FAILURE TO ACHEIVE PROGRESS BUT HAD DETERIORTATED.

5. GREEK GOVERNMENT SOURCE JANUARY 22 ISSUED BRIEF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATEMENT CATEGORICALLY DENYING REPORTS THAT GREEK TROOP MOVEMENTS HAV TAKEN PLACE OR THAT STATE OF ALERT HAS BEEN DECLARED. NATIONAL RADIO CARRIED THIS DENIAL IN NEWSCASTS LAT JANUARY 22 AND ONLY ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTED WHEREAS LAMBRIAS' JANUARY23 STATEMENT WAS REPORTED PROMINENTLY IN ALL NEWSPAPERS AND ON RADIO/TV.

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